



Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights

Committed to balancing the needs of nonhuman animals with those of human animals

National Office: P.O. Box 208, Davis, CA 95617-0208 • Voice 530.759.8106 Fax 530.759.8116
E-mail: AVAR@igc.org • URL: <http://AVAR.org>


July 13, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

To Whom It May Concern:

Although it shows some effort on the part of the Food and Drug Administration to protect consumer's health by placing warning labels on egg cartons, this reaction to a serious human health problem places the responsibility for *Salmonella enteritidis* (Se) infection on the consumer rather than placing any of the responsibility with the egg industry. It is well-known that the practice of forced molting in egg-laying birds causes their immune systems to be so compromised that they develop Se, thus infecting their eggs with a potentially-deadly bacteria. The Food and Drug Administration must grant the petition that was filed on behalf of the Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights and United Poultry Concerns in April 1998 or be remiss in its responsibilities for eliminating all factors in the develop and spread of the number one cause of foodborne illness in the United States.

Sincerely,


Teri Barnato, M.A.
National Director

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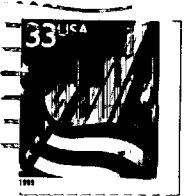


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